

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested under 37 CFR §1.116 on grounds they are directed to matters of form and place the application in condition for allowance and do not require further consideration.

Claims 34, 36, 37, 41–49, 53–59 and 61 stand rejected. Claims 11, 13–15, 19, 20, 32, 62 and 63 have been allowed. The foregoing amendments cancel claims 43–49 and amend independent claims 34 and 53.

Rejections Under Section 112, 1st Paragraph

In the final office action dated July 27, 2000, claims 43–49 were rejected under 35 USC §112, 1st paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 43–49 have now been canceled.

Rejections Under Section 112, 2nd Paragraph

Claims 34, 36, 37, 41, 42 were rejected under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph, due to the indefiniteness of claim 34. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment made to claim 34 addresses the problems, noted by the Examiner, giving rise to the indefiniteness of claim 34.

Examiner also rejected claims 43–49 under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph. As previously noted, claims 43–49 have now been canceled.

Regarding the rejection of claims 53-59 and 61 under §112, 2nd paragraph, it is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 53 cures the indefiniteness identified by the Examiner and, therefore, claims 53-59 and 61 should be allowable.

Because the Examiner indicated that he construed the claims and applied the prior art as much as practically possible, and did not reject the claims under substantive grounds, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 34, 36, 37, 41, 42, 53-59, and 61 would not require further searching or consideration of prior art in order to be allowed and would place the application in condition for allowance.

Prior Art Based Rejections

Claims 43-49 are being canceled and therefore their rejection under 35 USC 102(e) is now moot.

Interview Summary

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of the interview on December 1, 2011. Applicant discussed with the Examiner a proposed amendment to claim 43 that would address rejections of that claim. The examiner indicated that the proposed amendment would require further consideration. No agreement was reached.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments on grounds that they place the application in condition for allowance and/or reduce the number of issues for appeal. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if there are additional amendments that could be made to place the application in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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